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(916) 445-4775**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****March 29, 2006****CONTACTS**Chris Nance, Deputy Secretary for Communications
Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
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Department of Housing and Community Development
(916) 445-4775**New Report Provides First Projections of
California's Potential for Infill Housing**

Sacramento – California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak, who commissioned “The Future of Infill Housing in California: Opportunities, Potential, Feasibility, and Demand,” today unveiled the report which provides the first statewide assessment of infill housing development potential for California communities. The report was prepared by a team of researchers led by Professor John Landis and Ms. Heather Hood at the Institute of Urban and Regional Development, a pre-eminent public policy research institute, housed at the University of California, Berkeley.

California is home to 37 million people and by 2025 the state's population will be approximately 44 million. Meeting the housing demands of a growing population and workforce (annual need of 220,000 - 250,000 new housing units), while protecting California's natural and agricultural resources, requires efficient use of land resources through increased infill development.

Secretary McPeak stated, “A key finding in the report is that California’s infill housing potential is estimated in the range of one to one-and-a-half million additional housing units given current site availability and market constraints. Additionally, if the amount of infill housing development could be doubled from this total, roughly 100,000 acres of undeveloped land could potentially be saved over the next 25 years.”

“This report also offers a statewide perspective on strategies to address a portion of California’s housing needs within existing communities and help rebuild the physical, economic, and social fabric in older communities suffering from lack of investment,” added Judy Nevis, Acting Director for the Department of Housing and Community Development, which collaborated with the California Department of Transportation to provide support to the report’s authors. “This information is essential to raising awareness of infill opportunities, so much so that we are already taking action to implement the report’s recommendation to update the database inventory periodically,” she concluded.

Professor Landis notes, “While we recognize encouraging infill will not eliminate the need for additional greenfield development, we hope this report will assist local officials, private and non-profit builders, community groups, and interested stakeholders to better evaluate the range of opportunities that exist in their communities through a balanced growth approach.” In the foreword to his report Professor Landis outlines the uses and limitations of the study indicating it does provide; a statewide perspective on infill potential, analysis of the opportunities and limitations of infill, and a new web-based statewide parcel inventory. The study is a theoretical estimate and therefore does not; recommend specific parcels that should or will be developed; represent current zoning or land use standards; nor provide information about the interests or intentions of specific property owners.

The effort was assisted by a Technical Advisory Committee composed of representatives from: local and regional government; transit agencies; affordable housing advocates; private associations such as the Building Industry Association, Environment Now, and the Great Valley Center; and state agencies including the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. The report presents findings on the potential for infill development to address a portion of the state's need for housing, as well as a series of suggestions and alternatives for state policymakers to consider.

The report also produced a new tool, the pilot California Infill Parcel Locator, www.infill.org, a web-based statewide parcel inventory. The pilot website allows users to identify, screen, and further research potential infill development sites. Interactive maps allow ease of use. Copies of the report can be downloaded from the website. Questions regarding the website can be emailed to CAinfill@berkeley.edu or called into (510) 643-7553.

For a summary of findings and policy suggestions go to:
http://infill.gisc.berkeley.edu/report_vol-1.pdf, page 55.

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